

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/708,224 Confirmation No. 2223
Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.
Filed : February 18, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 3742
Examiner : Sang Yeop Paik
Docket No. : 39.033
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached document listed on the accompanying "IDS List of References" (a substitute for Form PTO/SB/08) is hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

REMARKS

The presently submitted document, i.e., Cite No. F1 as listed on the IDS List of References, is not in English. This reference was cited in a communication from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart Japanese application.

Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)

As a concise explanation of the relevance of the presently submitted Japanese-language reference, an English translation of the Japanese Patent Office communication in its entirety is submitted herewith. The JPO communication was in

Japanese Pat. App. No. 2003-043425, the foreign patent application on the basis of which priority is claimed in the present application. (A copy of the Japanese Patent Office communication in its entirety follows the English translation.)

In addition, a partial English translation of Cite No. 1, which is a published utility model application, has been made available to Applicants' representative and is being submitted herewith

STATEMENT AS SPECIFIED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider this reference, and to indicate so on the accompanying IDS List of References and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 28, 2006

/James Judge/

James W. Judge
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